THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.

Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

No. 38. SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5TH, 1914. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

All donations in money or kind should be addressed to the Financial Secretary of the E.L.F.S. :— Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Saturday, Dec. 5th, 3 p.m.—Poster Parade starting from International Suffrage Shop, 11 Adam Street, Strand.

Sunday, Dec. 6th, 3 p.m.—Marble Arch, Hyde Park—Mrs. Bouvier, Mrs. Walker, and others.

8 p.m.—The Women's Hall—Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Miss M. Wright, Mrs. Schlette.

Monday, Dec. 7th, 3 p.m.—Bow, Women's Hall—Mrs. Dave Wilcox.

8 p.m.—"Peacock," Freemason's Road—Mr. Mewett.

8 p.m.—Salmon Lane, Poplar-Mrs. Bouvier

8.30 p.m.—Lesbia Rd—Mrs. Walker.

Tuesday, Dec. 8th, 2.30 p.m.—30 Churchill Road (indoors)—Mrs. Walker.

7.30 p.m.—Limehouse—Bardett Rd—Mrs. Walker.

8 p.m.—Tidal Basin, 14 Butcher's Rd—Miss Phillips

8 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall, Railway St.—Mrs. Walshe.

Wednesday, Dec. 9nd, 8 p.m.—Chrisp St.

8 p.m.—Bow, Ford Rd.—Mrs. Drake.

Thursday, Dec. 10th, 3 p.m. — Deacon's Vestry—Mrs. Walker

8 p.m.—Knapp Rd.—Mrs. Walker.

8 p.m.—124 Barking Road—Miss Kirby.

8 p.m. — Women's Hall, Bow Choir Practice.

Friday, Dec. 11th, 8 p.m.—**Caxton Hall Public Meeting.**

To reach Old Ford Road take an Old Ford 'bus (No. 8), which goes via the Marble Arch, Oxford St., the Bank and Liverpool St., or book to Old Ford Station on the North London Railway.

The E.L.F.S. Annual Conference will be held on Monday, January 4th, for the re-election of officers and discussion of Federation business and public questions, etc. All Members must keep that evening free.—E. Sylvia Pankhurst.

Miss FOX'S CONCERT,
Women's Hall, 400 Old Ford Rd., Bow,
Saturday, December 12th, at 8 p.m.
SONGS AND DANCES IN COSTUME.
ADMISSION FREE. Collection in aid of E.L.F.S. Funds.

THE MEMBERS' NEW YEAR PARTY.

The Members' New Year Party will be held in Bow Baths, on the evening of January 2nd. Volunteers for the entertainment and promises of contributions towards the refreshments should write to Miss Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

THE CHILDREN'S PARTIES.

The E.L.F.S. is arranging three Children's Parties in the New Year, one to be held in Bow Baths, on Saturday afternoon, January 2nd, one in Poplar Town Hall, on January 11th, and one in Canning Town. Promises of refreshments and presents for the children should be sent to Miss Mackay, 400 Old Ford Rd., Bow, E. Miss Evelyn Sharp has promised to tell some fairy stories. Miss Irene Bouvier has promised to sing. Mr. Broadbear has promised to bring his band. Mrs. Ancliffe Sennett has promised to be responsible for the Christmas Tree.

We expect to entertain about 2,000 children, and as each child is to have a present, we shall need upwards of 2000 gifts. Please send us dolls, toys and little garments for these functions

MUSIC AT OUR SUNDAY MEETINGS.

Miss Murray Clark has kindly promised to arrange the music for the first part of our Sunday meetings at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow. On Sunday, November 6th, Miss May Coleman will sing, Miss Marguerite Beauvais will introduce her piano, violin and 'cello trio, and Miss Murray Clark will recite. The speakers will be Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Miss Wright and Mrs. Schlette.

EAST LONDON FEDERATION of the SUFFRAGETTES.

A PUBLIC MEETING

TO BE HELD AT

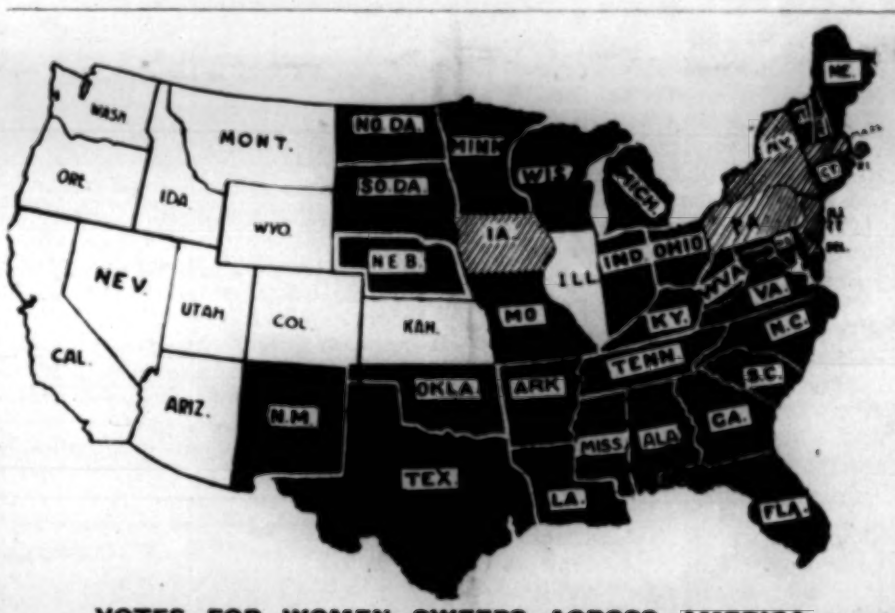
CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER,

On Friday, December 11th, at 8 p.m.

SPEAKERS:

Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST, Mrs. DRAKE (CUSTOM HOUSE), Mrs. WALKER (POPLAR), Mrs. PAYNE (BOW), Mrs. MANSELL-MOULLIN.

RESERVED SEATS 2s., 1s. and 6d. **ADMISSION FREE.**



VOTES FOR WOMEN SWEEPS ACROSS AMERICA.

Suffrage States, WHITE. Campaign States, GREY. Anti-Suffrage States, BLACK.

MOTHERS AND BABIES.

We lend necessitous mothers outfits for their babies, for the first months.

With the money subscribed for finding employment, we are getting baby clothes made, and paying unemployed women for making these things. Those who would give money and materials for making baby clothes would help in one of the best possible ways. Gifts of baby clothes can be made good use of, also nightdresses, quilts, blankets and sheets for the mothers. Even old sheets can be cut up for babies' napkins.

Each baby's outfit should consist of:—

FOR BABY.

Four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests and a cot blanket.

FOR MOTHER.

Two nightgowns, a woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets and one pair pillowcases.

Our milk bill increases weekly. We urgently need subscriptions towards it; also gifts of:—

EGGS.

For invalids and babies who are too ill to digest milk, and are given the white of egg beaten up in water.

ARROWROOT, BARLEY & RICE, BORACIC POWDER, BORACIC LINT, VASELINE, ZINC OINTMENT, COD LIVER OIL AND MALT.

Nurse Hebbes has prepared us a chart for infant feeding, and this is published as a free leaflet. Mothers who wish to have it can obtain it at any of our centres.

CLOTHING STALLS.

Clothing stalls, where new and second-hand clothes may be bought at very low prices, are open at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, on Fridays and Saturdays, at 20 Railway Street, Poplar on Saturday at 6 p.m., and at 53 St. Leonard Street on Fridays and Saturdays. We shall be glad if friends can send us any clothes for these stalls. Boots and shoes are very urgently needed.

All parcels should be sent to 400 Old Ford Road, E., addressed to Miss N. L. Smyth.

LEARNING ON SHORT COMMONS.

A scheme for training unemployed girls under seventeen has been started at Deptford with the approval, we are told, of the Central Committee on Women's employment.

The girls are to be taught cooking, nursing, dressmaking and to read "A Midsummer Night's Dream," which they are to buy at a penny a copy.

They are to be given a maintenance allowance of 4s. a week, dinner and tea. The girls of sixteen and upwards are to get 5s. 6d. a week.

These maintenance allowances, though certainly slender would not be so bad if we could be sure that they are living at home, and that the adult members of their families had enough to live on themselves, and enough also to keep the home comfortable for the young people.

Unfortunately we cannot be sure of this, and the *Pall Mall Gazette* in giving an account of the scheme explains that one of the girls at the Deptford Centre is living with her grandmother, who has only her old age pension of 5s; 9s. a week will not go very far between them. Two other girls, the *Pall Mall Gazette* tells us, have been keeping their family, the father being out of work.

Surely the allowances should be increased in cases like these. It is an appalling fact that large numbers of people of all ages secure help from none of the existing national and private funds because for some reason or other their cases fail to fit the pigeon holes.

The nursery at Norman House, 45 Norman Road, is now open.

The charge for a child's day in the nursery from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., including meals, is 3d.

Volunteers are needed to help in taking the babies out.

Who will pay to put us in telephonic communication with our factory?

THE 10/- WAGE.

A Letter to Her Majesty the Queen from the Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage.

Madam,

My Committee instructs me to thank Your Majesty, for the reply sent through your Secretary, to their request that the wage of working women might be raised above the 10/- rate of pay.

While realizing the enormous difficulties that will assail Your Majesty's efforts, and the confusion of opinions from those personally interested, my Committee feel that a great opportunity has arisen, whereby Your Majesty could come to the rescue of the submerged women of the country, who have been so cruelly exploited by traders and neglected by the Legislature.

Your Majesty says that: "In formulating any scheme it is necessary to safeguard ordinary trade and industry."

But if a woman is not able to earn more than 10/- a week, it follows that ordinary trade and industry is guarded at the expense of the unhappy women, whose progeny must decline through lack of nutriment, thereby bringing deterioration to the National Physique.

Interested traders and contractors may criticize Your Majesty's Committee, and tell Your Majesty that under present conditions there are thousands of women who, in their ordinary occupation, cannot even make 3d. an hour, but this admission, in itself, reveals the awful horror of the thing.

My Committee do not suggest that young girls undergoing a course of training should receive a minimum wage of £1, but they understand that 10/- is the fixed wage for skilled workers, and they respectfully maintain that such a wage is totally insufficient, and is liable to be supplemented by *another fearful form of trading*, generally kept from the innocent, but which, in all its secret ramifications, is responsible for the disease, degradation and corruption of our Cities.

Your Majesty is never likely to be taken *sufficiently behind the scenes* or *allowed to see the inner life* of all this misery, but my Committee feel that if Your Majesty would take a stand upon the simple truth that no woman can keep herself, and perhaps others, on 10/- a week, the Nation would follow suit, and it might be the first step in the regeneration of the land.

It is a little difficult to write to one so highly placed and far away as is Your Majesty, but the position of the women is very desperate, and their forced low status extremely dangerous to the here-after of the War.

The position needs a *Will* from a high place. So few will face the truth, but we wish Your Majesty to know it: *Women cannot lead respectable lives on 10/- a week*, and those Traders who live by women's labour are often very rich.

I am, Your Majesty's obedient Servant and affectionate subject,

MAUD ARNCLIFFE-SENNETT, *President.*

MORE SWEATING.

A worker at Russell's, in Roman Road, has shown us a piece of work that she has to do. It is a piece of webbing to be used for children's corsets into which she has to put 131 pieces of cord, and stitch the cord round the edge for ½d. The webbing is 19½ inches broad, by 7½ deep, and it is very hard and painful to the fingers to push each cord into its piping. Working with all her might this woman can only do one dozen of these corsets a day.

In the House of Commons on Monday, November 23rd, Mr. Pease (President of the Board of Education), admitted that the average weekly number of children receiving school meals in October, was 183,000 as compared with 40,000 in 1913. Here is evidence of distress!

WOMEN! JOIN THE

East London Federation of the Suffragettes —

WE NEED YOU!

I wish to become a member of the EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF THE SUFFRAGETTES.

Name.....

Address.....

I enclose 1½d, to cover membership and postage.

I enclose 4s. 4d. for a year's WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.

Name.....

Address.....

The Woman's Dreadnought.

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes,

321 ROMAN ROAD, BOW, E.

Telephone EAST 422.

Agents:—INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE SHOP, 11 Adam St. Strand, W.C.; LONDON & SUBURBAN PUBLISHING Co., St. Bride's Churchyard, E.C.; Messrs. HORACE MARSHALL & Co., Temple Avenue, E.C.

Can be obtained at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. SMITH and SONS, and Messrs. WILLING.

Annual Subscription: Post free, 4s. 4d.

No. 38.—Saturday, Dec. 5th, 1914.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service.

DEPUTATION TO THE WAR OFFICE.

There have been many rumours of immoral conditions surrounding the camps where soldiers are being trained in different parts of the country.

In the House of Commons, on November 16th, Sir Ivor Herbert, speaking of the new army, said:—

"There is an abnormal wastage going on in the ranks of those units which have already been raised. . . . According to the figures which have been given to me, there has been a wastage in many units of as much as from 30 to 40 per cent. of the strength of the unit, and it is due to what is known in military language generally as "avoidable disease." . . . It should have been evident to those who were accustomed to military organisation that special police measures were required to restrain the causes of this most unfortunate condition of affairs. At present, to put it plainly, the great wastage that is going on in the ranks of the new army comes from two causes and two causes only, drink and women."

Sir Thomas Whittaker said: "We know that there has been great damage done to the army through drinking, and the evils that result from that. I myself, with regret, have seen our new soldiers in uniform rolling drunk about our streets at midday.

Mr. Asquith, in reply, said that Sir Ivor Herbert had taken a "much too gloomy view," but he said that he would not commit himself to specific figures.

The Plymouth Town Council some time ago spoke of reviving the C. D. Acts in order to protect the soldiers from the natural consequences of a vicious way of life at the expense of the women concerned. This proposal was received with indignation by women throughout the country, and Mr. Asquith assured the Women's Freedom League that it was all a mistake.

In the House of Commons, on November 16th, Lord Claude Hamilton asked the Home Secretary whether the Government would introduce and pass a measure giving magistrates the power to issue warrants against women of bad character, for their summary arrest and committal to hospitals or reformatories until the close of the war. Mr. McKenna replied that this would be impossible, and that the Government must rely on the organised effort of voluntary women workers and on the firm enforcement of the existing law by police and magistrates.

In short, Parliament dissolved without any legislative measures having been taken to deal with this question; but now that Parliament has dissolved, a most startling case has occurred in Cardiff, and there is no reason to doubt that the military authorities are gradually taking steps which were not sanctioned by Parliament and which have not been open to the field of public discussion.

The Cardiff case appeared in Sunday's papers, and we print elsewhere a report of it from the *South Wales Daily News*. As soon as it came to our knowledge we at once organised a deputation to the War Office consisting of representatives of the East London Federation of the Suffragettes and of the Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage. On Monday we wrote to say that we were coming, and on Tuesday afternoon the deputation presented itself, intending to be received. Mr. Cubitt was appointed by the War Office to hear what we had to say. He told us that the War Office had no official knowledge of the Cardiff case and that they had written for further particulars. He said that Cardiff was under martial law, and that he was sure that if there was a lady who was a notorious drunkard, we would not object to her being placed under restraint.

The members of the deputation, which included Mrs. Arncliffe-Sennett, the President of the Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage, and Mrs. Payne, Mrs. Drake, Mrs. Walshe, and myself from the East London Federation of the Suffragettes, endeavoured to make our points clear to Mr. Cubitt.

As a result of the interview we sent the following letter to Lord Kitchener:—

"My lord, we wish that sometimes it were possible for you to see representatives of women's organisations personally in reference to the Army orders which are being made, and which are causing women the very greatest indignation and distress. Not having been able to see you personally, it seems well that we should, sum up the matters which we put before the War Office representative who received us yesterday.

The East London Federation of the Suffragettes protests against the action of the Military authorities in Cardiff in imprisoning five women for being out between the hours of 7 p.m. and 8. a.m., because it considers this to be a grave infringement of the liberties of women. It considers this order highly dangerous to respectable women, who are liable to be charged with an offence unknown to the ordinary law and tried in an irregular way before an arbitrary court without adequate opportunity to defend themselves.

The E.L.F.S. protests strongly that this is a grave injustice even in the case of women prostitutes, because Parliament, which is elected by men, has established by law a double code of morals as between men and women. Parliament has refused to abolish or interfere with prostitutes.

Men have found prostitution convenient. Numbers of women have found it the only means of earning a living.

What is to happen to the women who have been prostitutes? Administrators of public and private funds refuse to help them.

Scales of relief paid to respectable women are so low that they cannot live on them. The Queen's workrooms pay 10s. a week to an adult woman, and 5s. to girls under 18. Similar funds pay 4s. to younger girls. War Office contractors are guilty of the grossest forms of sweating. Large numbers of unemployed women receive no help whatsoever.

Moreover, the order is grossly unjust because it punishes women only, and leaves the men, who are equally guilty, to go scot free.

"We, therefore, urge (1) That it is the business of the Army authorities to control the troops and to leave the civilians, whether women or men, to be dealt with by the civil law. (2) To merely lock prostitutes in their homes will not prevent soldiers who desire to consort with prostitutes from following them to those homes. It will not prevent men of vicious tendencies from endeavouring, and, perhaps succeeding in inducing women and girls who have hitherto led respectable lives to consent to immoral proposals, especially in view of the terribly large number of unemployed women who have been thrown out of employment through the war, and for whom work has only been found in a small minority of cases.

"We submit that the only way to control the troops is to make it a rule, rigorously to be enforced, that any soldier who is found consorting with a prostitute, visiting a house of ill-fame, or to have contracted an 'avoidable disease,' shall be court-martialled.

"Women who may be blameworthy in the matter should be handed over to the civil law to be dealt with according to the law of the land. But the civil authorities must in justice remember that it is as impossible for women to live unless they have properly paid work as it is for men, and that when the irregular and unfortunate means of livelihood which we all deplore is denied to the women who have lived by it, other means of subsistance must be found.

"We appeal to you, my lord, to dismiss the prejudices which may have clouded your judgment of this question and to look at it fairly and from a common-sense point of view. We feel that there is a specially strong reason why all connected with the Army should do this, because we know that in the past certain of your predecessors have actually assisted in the organised demoralisation of women, in order to supply the supposed needs of the troops. We cannot think that you are unaware of this matter, which has been made extensively public from time to time, but should you question our statement, we should be glad to supply you with proof of its accuracy."

Faithfully yours,

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST,

Hon. Sec. East London Federation of Suffragetes.

Mrs. Arncliffe-Sennett has summed up the views of her Federation in the following memorandum to Lord Kitchener:—

Men *will* have the double code of morals. Women are needed to supply this system. Women are prohibited from going on the streets to earn their living. Will Lord Kitchener say what is to become of them, and will he say why the women should be arrested for being in the streets at Cardiff, and the soldiers who help to prostitute them allowed to be free?

MAUD ARNCLIFFE-SENNETT,
President of the Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage.

It is not sufficiently realised that even the ordinary law in regard to prostitution places women in a very dangerous position, for a woman may be sent to prison for "accosting" on the word of a single policeman, without the man whom she is said to have annoyed being called upon to give evidence. The law refuses to allow a man to be either arrested or convicted in a similar way.

A case which occurred within the last few months and which clearly demonstrates the dangers of this unjust law, was that of a certain Egyptian princess, who, according to her own contention, was married to an Englishmen in Egypt. This woman was some time ago arrested for "accosting." The policeman said that he had seen her approach a number of men. She said that she was looking for her husband. She had two witnesses to her respectability, but she was nevertheless convicted. Since then this woman has brought an action against the man whom she says she has legally married, and there is no reason to doubt that she actually was looking for him at the time she was convicted.

Thus the ordinary law is already extremely unjust to women, and it is quite certain that numbers of women must from time to time have been accused and convicted wrongfully, partly by accident, and partly because amongst every large number of people there are some who are unworthy, and this law opens to policemen an unwarrantably wide opportunity to blackmail women who may be alone upon the streets at night.

This new rule against women which has been introduced at Cardiff and will, unless checked, probably spread all over the country, opens up an even wider field for blackmail against women, not only by the police but by any other evilly disposed person. This Army rule is infamously unjust and must be swept away. We hear much of Prussian tyranny, but nothing could be more typical of the sort of tyranny which Prussia is said to exercise than this.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

WAR OFFICE CONTRACTS.

There has been considerable discontent all over the country with the failure of the War Office to provide satisfactory accommodation for its armies in training. Mr. Harold Baker put up a vague defence in the House, making bold assertions unsupported by definite facts and figures. "Only about a quarter of all the vast number of huts . . . have been put up by contract," Mr. Baker stated. If the number was "vast" a considerable number must have been erected by contractors. In a previous issue we printed a letter from a man who was working for one of these contractors under the most unsatisfactory conditions. With regard to the huts themselves a building trade official, writing to the *Daily Citizen* says:—"There cannot be much sub-letting of contracts, but I know that all the charges of that can be substantiated.

"Mr. Baker denies the statement that luxurious huts were built for the officers. No such statement was made. The statement was that officers' huts were lined inside and were partitioned off, and that officers had not to live 30 in a hut as the soldiers had to do. There is no lining in the soldiers' huts.

"He further stated that the original estimate before the war was £115, but there had been an increase in the cost of timber of 37½ per cent., which raised the price to £140. He said that the actual cost was between £100 and £200, according to the difficulties arising through circumstances. That is an extraordinary margin. Does it actually cost £100 for the haulage of material?"

The Government is also following the unusual and unjustifiable course of keeping secret the names and addresses of Government contractors, which makes it more than usually hard to bring home cases of the sweating of women and the violation of the fair-wage clause in the case of men. A terribly hard case was brought before the House by Mr. Yeo, the Member for Poplar. He asked the Home Secretary if it had been brought to his notice that women engaged on making saddle-covers for the Army are earning about one penny per hour and 2d. to 3d. per hour on ground sheets, working about 59 hours per week, and that those in clerical work earn about 9s. 10d. per week of 59 hours at a well-known firm doing Army work; and if he will cause inquiries to be made with a view that such a state of things should at the earliest possible moment be put an end to?" Mr. Baker replied that he had received no complaint, but would have the matter investigated.

We can be sure, however, that although wages may be raised in special cases where the scandal is forced on the notice of the authorities, there will be no general and permanent improvement until women are given political power.

On November 16th, Mr. Thomas asked the Under-Secretary of State for War whether he knew that men had been promised an allowance of 10s. for clothes damaged in consequence of their uniform not being supplied. WE should like to ask the War Office where men can buy an entire outfit of clothes and boots for 10s. If such a place existed many poor men would be glad to know of it, but of course, it does not, and the men are obliged to get part of their wives' separation allowances to make up the difference.

We have Mr. Asquith's word for it that, however irregular the payments to soldiers' dependents may be, the members of Parliament will draw their salaries as usual during the war.

From the 'SOUTH WALES DAILY NEWS.'

In addition to the order prohibiting women from being on licensed premises in Cardiff between the hours of 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. Colonel East (commanding the Severn Defences) has issued notice to certain women in the city, under the Defence of the Realm Act, 1914, prohibiting them from being out of doors between the hours of 7 p.m. and 8 a.m., and on Saturday morning the first batch of offenders was brought before a military court-martial, consisting of Major Pope (President), Capt. W. L. Ferrier, and Lieut. W. H. Graham, the prosecuting officer being Capt. Adair.

Five women were brought before the court, viz., Maggie Rowlands, Lena Norris, Kate Fury, Cassie Collins and Mary Simpson.

Each case was dealt with separately, and the procedure was precisely the same as in the case of a soldier being court-martialled. The President first swore in his fellow members of the court, and was then himself sworn in by Capt. Ferrier. As each prisoner was brought in, the Order was fully explained to her, and a summary of the police officer's evidence read over. She was given an opportunity of being represented by "counsel" and was invited to make any defence.

The officers who had served the notices on the accused were P. S Chapple and P. C. Sparks and they stated the Order was read and explained to those of them who could not read.

Other constables gave evidence as to finding the women in Cattrays Park, Bute Street, or other places at hours varying from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

All the women pleaded guilty, and advanced various excuses for being out after 7 p.m. One of them—Norris—said: "Seven o'clock seemed so early—it seemed like a dream to me." A couple of the others were apparently disposed to regard the proceedings with some levity, until they were informed by the President that "under the Defence of the Realm Act, offenders were liable to any punishment not exceeding three months' imprisonment."

After all the accused women had been dealt with, it was intimated that the sentence of the court would be communicated to the General Commanding the District.

The General Commanding the District has confirmed the finding of the court, and the five women will be kept in detention each for 62 days.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

GENERAL FUND.

Miss Phillips, 5.0, Miss Grimes, 3.6, Mrs. Walshe 2.6.

FOR MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS:

Mrs. Powles 2.6, Miss Forbes Robertson 2.0, Mrs. Rintel 2.6, Mrs. Barfield 2.6, Mrs. Abraham 5.0, Mr. Fellows 5.0, Mrs. Wolfe 3.4.0, Mrs. Brice 2.6, F. S. 2.0, Miss Yeoman (weekly) 10.0, Mrs. Brewer 1.1.0, J. H. Flack, Esq. 2.0, Mrs. Holiday 2.0, Miss Gertrude Eunis 1.0.0, H. Groves, Esq. 2.8, Jas. K. Watt, Esq. 1.0.0, C. Polhill, Esq. 5.0.0, A. C. Richards, Esq. 1.0.0., Mrs. Rowe, 2.2.0, Mrs. Newman 3.0, Miss Bonwick 10.0, Mrs. Hilyer 3.0, "Devizes Suffragettes" 1.10.0, Lady Hastings 5.0, "Another Sylvia" 2.6, Miss I. Campbell 2.0.0, per Miss I. Campbell 1.10.6, Miss Phillips 12.0, Victor Duval, Esq. 10.0, Mr. Powles 1.0, Miss J. Graham 2.0, Miss O'Brien 2.0, Miss Isabelle Jones 4.0, Mrs. Richmond (weekly) 5.0, Cuckoo 2.0 (weekly), Miss D. H. Parkes 5.0, Mrs. Usherwood 5.0, the Misses Mann 15.0, Miss Crumpton and Miss Plant 5.0, Mrs. Grieve, Portobello, per Baby Lovers' Club, £5, Misses Gliksten 15.0 (monthly), per Miss H. Braun 10.0, Mr. Chandler 5.0, Miss Harraden 10.0, G. Rayment 1.0.0, Mrs. Burch 5.0, Mrs. Edward Davies 1.0.0 (10.0 monthly.)

Collected:—Miss N. Mannicom 4.9, Miss Bennett 2.1½, Mrs. Watkins, 2.3½, Mrs. Parsons 2.5.0, Mrs. Darley 5.0, Mrs. R. Palmer Tebb 5.0, Miss Gautz 3.0, Mrs. Walshe 2.6, Rev. Cyril Isherwood, East Ham C.L.W.S. 2.6, Miss Phillips 1.6.4½, Two Friends 2.1½, Miss Ivy Parsons 2.0, Miss Nicholas 3.6½, Miss Penn 1.0.

CLOTHES.—Mrs. James, Miss Pool, Misses Gliksten, Miss Fleming, Mrs. Barfield, Misses Fussell, Mrs. Cox, Miss Bonwick and Miss Newstead, Miss Gladys Shedden, Miss Floyd, Miss D. H. Parkes, Mrs. Birnstingl, Mrs. McCheyne, Mrs. Mantle, Miss Watts, Miss Ethel Wedgwood, Mrs. A. Barnes, Mrs. Churcher.

FOUR DOZEN TINS OF FRAME FOOD—The Frame Food Co.

TWELVE DOZEN TINS OF GLAXO—Messrs. "Glaxo."

A CASE OF NESTLE'S MILK—Messrs. The Nestle and Anglo-Swiss Milk Co.

We urgently need more money to find work for more unemployed women.

NATIONAL FORCES.

By LAURENCE HOUSMAN.

We are faced to-day in Europe by the contradiction, on a gigantic scale, of everything at which the Suffrage movement has aimed. Instead of the conservation of life its destruction has become the object toward which five great Powers are now straining every nerve and wasting their material resources on an unprecedented scale. To this horrible spectacle has one-sided government, in its two-fold aspect of wrong—government by the male and government by class—led the nations of modern civilization.

And now faced, by the urgent necessity of killing each other, those nations are submitting to sacrifices and privations which nothing would have induced them to undergo had the call been not to destroy life abroad but to save life at home. Had our governments been asked to spend on the things which all suffragists hold to be urgent necessities for the health and wealth of the nation, one-tenth of what they are now squandering on war, we should have been told that the community could not afford it; it would have made the incidence of taxation too heavy, it would have damaged trade. The fact that it would have built up life was not allowed to be the final consideration. And the meaning of it comes simply to this, that the community is not as highly organised into a single and effective whole, and the mind of the community is not so enthusiastically keyed for the saving of life in time of peace as it is for the destruction of life in time of war.

Let us grant the wonderful revelation of human qualities in hundreds of thousands of average men which war presents: the courage, the cheerfulness, the unselfishness, the will to endure pain and privation of the ordinary British "Tommy." He has been impelled thereto by many mixed motives; for it is nonsense to pretend that they are all on the heroic scale: he is not always a voluntary fighter, except in name; very often he hates it and would gladly be out of it. But, for all his mixed motives, the State has got hold of him, and turning his ordinary habits upside down, and depriving him of nearly all his comforts, has set him to fight what the State holds to be the general enemy. And in every nation—if only there is that great body of conviction filling the community, welding it into one, drawing its forces into an organic whole—wherever the national conscience thus gets to work there the ordinary average lives of the community will respond and reveal a new effectiveness far transcending the effectiveness of separated individuals. It is the communal impulse which brings out the big crudities, and at a touch produces out of quite ordinary clay heroic deeds.

To produce that communal impulse, in the ordinary average mind everything is done—in time of war. It is *not* done in time of peace.

The Press which to-day lavishes its flattery on the recruit, encouraging him with high-sounding words, enlarging descriptively on the valiant deeds of those who have preceded him in the fight, that same Press did all it could to boycott and shut down the great movement for the organisation of women, and the drawing together into an effective whole and on a national scale that moral consciousness, latent in the maternal instinct which for countless ages had been artificially narrowed and segregated. All that organised encouragement which we now see given to men when they come out to fight, was organised discouragement for the women in their struggle to attain and to give expression to their communal instinct at last thoroughly awake.

We are seeing wonderful and dreadful things happen day by day, but to me one of the most wonderful and dreadful of all is to see how much the State will find it can afford to spend on man's way to peace through destruction, and how little it will afford to spend on that more human way to peace through construction and the conservation of life which is the way pleaded and fought for by women suffragists. For the one-sided and male solution of our international problems blood and money are poured out like water: for their complete and human solution by men and women working together on an equality, lack of means, of national funds and national enthusiasm compel us to wait.

But the time will come. And, when the maternal forces of our national life are given their right place of power and authority in the State we may then see men as well organised and as willing to make sacrifices and die for the beauty and strength of free motherhood in times of peace as they are now for that more partial and less fundamental ideal of Liberty to which at present we have attained.

WOMEN UNDER THE POOR LAW.

A circular has recently been issued by the Local Government Board which shows that the total number of children in receipt of relief on January 1st, 1914, was 234,687, and of these 166,648 were having out relief or were boarded out. 107,548 were given out-door relief with their widowed or deserted mothers.

The circular says:—

A widow's family, being deprived of the care of husband and father, necessarily lacks one of the essentials of the best home life, and for this reason it will sometimes be found desirable to provide for the training of some of the children in a well equipped school or home belonging to the Guardians or available for their use.

It should be borne in mind that in many cases where widows apply for relief, their are defects of character, temperament or practical capacity, which may render it difficult or impossible for them, even with monetary assistance, to rear and train their children properly.

Thus the special investigators appointed by the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws divided the mothers of out-relief families into four classes:—

I. Women really above the average, capable and trustworthy, able to give their children an excellent training, to plan for their future well-being, and to sacrifice a present gain to a future good.

II. Women of lower morale, good in intention, but less able to carry out their intentions, to look forward or to cope with their responsibilities. Often these are the women whose health has failed, and whose force of character has not given them the power to rise above it.

III. The slovenly and the slipshod women of weak intentions, and often of weak health, not able to make the most of their resources.

IV. The really bad mothers, people guilty of wilful neglect, sometimes drunkards or people of immoral character.

What encouragement these paragraphs give to the tendency latent, alas, in most of us and not least in Poor Law Guardians, to lecture and blame and patronize those who happen to be less fortunate than ourselves! It is so comfortable to be able to say that people are poor and unfortunate *because* they are slipshod and lacking in strength of character! But the Local Government Board and the Poor Law Guardians must ask themselves whether the notoriously mean Poor Law doles are not in a large measure responsible for having brought many and many a widowed mother down from that first "Class I," to the Classes II. and III, and even IV. Nothing so surely undermines the health and saps the energy as a chronic hopeless shortage of the necessaries of life, and Poor Law scales of relief are always designed to leave families with a good deal less of the necessaries of life than they really need.

The Local Government Board circular admits that, this is so in grosser cases, saying:—

"The Board has reason to believe that the relief given is not always calculated to maintain the standard of living upon which the Guardians should insist in households for which they have assumed responsibility."

The Guardians should ascertain, by careful inquiry, what is the normal standard of income on which a woman may reasonably be expected to bring up her family, regard being had to the cost and general standard of living, rate of wages, etc., in the locality, and should use that standard as a criterion of the needs of each case.

The Board are not prepared to accept the suggestion that in no circumstances should a mother in receipt of out-door relief undertake employment, but in dealing with this question the Guardians should act upon two definite principles. In the first place, the mother ought never to be permitted to undertake employment if thereby the home and the children are likely to suffer. Secondly, the Guardians should exercise the necessary supervision for ensuring that the relief they grant is not in effect used to supplement the wages of sweated labour. They might, for instance, make it a rule that women in receipt of relief should not accept employment at a rate of remuneration below the current rate of wages received by the independent workers in the locality.

We wish the Local Government Board would realize at last that no mother can be expected to maintain a home with reasonable comfort on less than £1 a week for the upkeep of the home itself, and an allowance of 5s. a week for each child. If the Board would adopt this scale as a model, and enforce it throughout the country, the present widespread physical deterioration would receive a tremendous check, and large numbers of widows and fatherless children would be saved from undeserved misery. It is an illuminating fact that whilst Guardians who grant relief which the Local Government Board considers too liberal are surcharged; no powers appear to exist for punishing Guardians whose meanness amounts to dangerous cruelty. The destitute widow who is given so little relief that her children die of underfeeding, has in practice no redress.

Two old and crying grievances are referred to as follows:—

The Board learn that Guardians sometimes consider themselves precluded from granting relief to widows with children in the early days of widowhood while the actual resources of the household are still unexhausted. The Guardians will remember that, as the Board have frequently stated, a person may be entitled to relief, though not destitute in all respects, nor entirely devoid of the means of subsistence, and the Board desire it to be clearly understood that in the case of widows with children who will obviously require assistance from the Poor Law in the near future, the Guardians would not only be within their rights, but would be acting with wisdom and foresight, in affording relief before the family resources, such as the stock of clothing, bedding, etc., are so depleted as to render it impossible afterwards to deal properly with the case without making good the deficiency.

It has been represented to the Board that married women and children occasionally suffer hardship, owing to the action of some Boards of Guardians, in refusing to relieve cases of destitution arising from sickness, unless the husband or father is willing to enter the Workhouse with his family. The Board cannot think that Boards of Guardians generally are unaware of their powers in dealing with cases coming within the exceptions to Article II. (2) of the Relief Regulation Order, 1911, but in order to remove any misconception there may be in this matter, they think it desirable to point out that the Order imposes no restriction upon the grant of relief when it is required for any members of a family on account of sickness, accident, or bodily or mental infirmity. In such a case the Guardians have a complete discretion as to the form in which relief can most properly be granted.

Only recently we at Old Ford Road have had to deal with a family in which the London Hospital had promised to operate on the father as soon as a bed was vacant, but the Guardians refused to give relief unless the man would go into the Workhouse Infirmary to be treated.

The L.G.B. circular wisely adds:

"A female officer is generally better fitted than a male officer to inspect the homes and their sleeping and domestic arrangements." S.

On Friday, November 27th, Mr. Keir Hardie asked the President of the Local Government Board whether, in view of the fact that the Committee of the National Relief Fund have laid down the rule that it only makes grants to relieve distress due directly to the war, his department is taking any action, either under the Unemployed Workmen Act, or by bringing pressure to bear on the Development Commissioners and the Road Board, to have public undertakings put in hand at once, especially in districts such as the East End of London, where distress, due to unemployment, is very acute, especially amongst working women.

The reply was:—"On the outbreak of war the Local Government Board urged upon local authorities the desirability of expediting works of public utility and framing schemes of work which could be put in hand in the event of serious distress from unemployment arising. A considerable number of local authorities have in fact prepared schemes for which grants can be made under the Unemployed Workmen Act. The Development Commissioners and the Road Board have also schemes available for the provision of work and a number of work-rooms for employment of women have already been aided under the Act referred to."

DISTRICT REPORTS.

Caxton Hall Public Meeting, Friday, December 11th. Four Stewards wanted for each district.

BOW & BROMLEY.

Dreadnoughts sold week ending Nov. 27 :—Bow 143.

DISTRIBUTED.

Mrs. Knudson, 175; Mrs. Connell and Mrs. Moore, 250; Mrs. Savoy, 250; Mrs. Carlisle, 200; Mrs. Morris, 200; Mrs. Clarke, 200; Mrs. Harmsworth 50; Mrs. Pascoe, 100; Mrs. Lake, 100.

HACKNEY.

Secretary—Miss YOUNG, 100 Greenwood Road, Dalston, N.E.

Very good indoor meeting held at 30 Churchill Road; Mrs. Bouvier was the speaker. Will members kindly note that meetings can no longer be held at the above address, but they will receive a card notifying them of the new address where the meetings will be held in future.

Outdoor meetings held as usual at corner of Lesbia Road, every Monday evening at 8.30. Members are asked to support the speakers at these meetings, also to sell papers.

LIMEHOUSE.

Indoor meetings are held every Thursday afternoon at 2.30 at Deacon's Vestry, Congregational Church, Burdett Rd. Outdoor meetings will be held at corner of Salisbury Street and Burdett Road on Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock. Will members volunteer to sell papers at these meetings?

The Social held last Thursday was a great success. Thanks are due to the members for their help, and to those friends who sold tickets, also to those who contributed so generously to the expenses of the hall.

SOUTH WEST HAM.

Hon. Sec.—MRS. DAISY PARSONS, 94 Ravenscroft Road.

Organiser: Miss MARY PHILLIPS, Centre for Tidal Basin and Custom House—14 Butchers' Road.

Good meetings have again been the rule, the Thursday night one being particularly well filled and enthusiastic. As members have unanimously promised to bear their share of the work and responsibility of the suggested children's party, the party was decided on. The Christmas tree is already provided for, and we hope to get a schoolroom lent us in which to hold the party. Several members have promised to dress dolls and to send either toys or money with which to buy them. Some dolls have been obtained wholesale, which will be sold for 1½d. each to those who will dress them. We want more promises of dolls, toys, cakes and refreshments.

Will members give what help they can through the coming week, to working up the Caxton Hall meeting (see front page), in order that all may be free to put their energies into a great co-operative effort to make the meeting a success. Stewards from the district are wanted, please give names to the Organiser.

That part of Tidal Basin that lies near Agate Street School wants thoroughly canvassing, and to have *Dreadnoughts* given away. The people are very friendly and anxious to hear about our work, and we hope to arrange a meeting in the schoolroom after Christmas, which must be as great a success as Custom House School.

All members and friends from this and other districts are warmly invited to come to the Social at 124 Barking Road to-night at 7.30. A good programme is promised, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst will be amongst the guests, and the more the merrier. Tickets sixpence, including refreshments.

97 *Dreadnoughts* sold week ending Nov. 27.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

NORTH LONDON M. P. U.

Hon. Sec.: MR. H. G. EVERETT, 19 St. Thomas Road, Finsbury Park.

Meeting held Sunday, Finsbury Park. Eighteen *Dreadnoughts* sold. Meeting Sunday next, Regents Park, 3 p.m. The Secretary will be glad to hear from members at above address.

We are asked to publish the following report:—

THE CHURCH LEAGUE FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Members of the C.L.W.S. are serving their country at the front as nurses, doctors, army chaplains, soldiers and sailors, and in every form of relief at home. The district organisers are continuing to give their services in public relief work under the municipal authorities in various large towns, and work-rooms are being carried on by some of the Branches in different quarters. In addition, the League proceeds with its usual work of intercession and education, and as its branches exist in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, not to mention the increasing number of members abroad, services are being held constantly in one part or another of the country. A special service for use in time of war has been compiled for the League by Dr. Scott Holland, and monthly services are being arranged in London to which members of other church and philanthropic societies are invited. This month, it will be held in St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, at 3.30 p.m., on the 12th instant, when the Vicar will lead the intercessions and give an address.

E.L.F.S. AND R.S.P.U. JOINT BENEFIT CONCERT in aid of the E.L.F.S. BABIES' MILK FUND, to be held at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, on Tuesday, December 22nd, at 8 p.m. Admission Threepence.

E.L.F.S. POPLAR WOMEN'S HALL

20 RAILWAY STREET.

Last Saturday evening a soldier came up from camp and called here to thank us for the milk we have been giving his daughter. She had a very bad throat, and hot milk was the only thing she could take, her mother could not afford it.

He said that both at home and at the front the soldiers had the most to thank the women for. When they were wounded he did not know what they would do without the women as they were more feeling and gentle than the men, and the soldier's wives and families were being looked after by them at home. He was going to France and said *if* he comes back he is going to do what he always has done. Support the women and fight for them and that if they do not get the vote when this war is over the men ought to be ashamed of themselves. It is incidents like these that give us encouragement to go on fighting as hard as ever we can.

I should like to remind those who are receiving milk from here that it is given between 3 and 5 p.m. on week days, and 11 and 12 p.m. on Sundays. One or two of the children came in the afternoon last Sunday because they had forgotten their instructions. Those who wish to make inquiries in reference to distress, or needing advice of any description, should call between 3 and 5 p.m. to see the Secretary. The sale of clothes has been held on Saturday mornings at 10.30. The time is now going to change to Monday evening at 7 o'clock. Please do not forget.

On Monday between 3 and 5 p.m. our doctor is in attendance with the nurse. Mothers who would like advice please come along. If your babies are not getting on as you would like, bring them here, and let nurse weigh them, and the doctor will tell you if everything is as it should be.

On Friday afternoon we have an interesting meeting for women only, and a cup of tea is served with this. You will here learn a great deal more of what our movement stands for.

These are a few cases of local distress:—

Mrs. W. has two children, a girl of 18 months and a new born baby. She pays 3s. rent for one room. Her husband is a casual labourer, doing only one or two days a week.

Mrs. T. has six children, aged nine, six and three years. She has just buried a child of 18 months, and she has also twins of three weeks old. Her husband is a dock labourer. His work is very slack and she herself is ill.

Mrs. T. has six children, aged eleven, nine, seven, four and twins of 21 months. Her husband is a ship's greaser. The Government took over his boat, and she has heard no tidings for two months. She had some money advanced to her but it is all gone now, and she does not know what to do.

Mrs. D. has one child, aged ten months. Her husband is a stevedore out of work. He has gone to Hollesly Bay for a month. Rent 4s.

Mrs. E. has five children and is expecting another in December. Husband, labourer, has lost his eye, so he cannot get much work.

One could go on at great length until you would get tired of reading of similar cases. Then there are the very hard cases of the widows needing work, and single women, and it all goes to prove that under a man-made system the women's side of affairs will never be looked after as it should be. It is a woman's question all the time. When there is no money coming in father may have to go without, but mother suffers a great deal more when she sees her *children* going short of food and barefooted, and *she* generally has to face the landlord and other creditors.

We here in Poplar at any rate quite understand and know of a great many improvements that could be made in the disgraceful housing conditions that surround us, especially in the High Street of the borough.

To come back to our business of relieving distress, we shall be very pleased if anybody will call here for collecting boxes to collect what they can among their friends, and do not forget to let us have all the clothes that you can spare.

Let us all work together with a will to make this world a better place to live in!

C. DRAKE.

PRICES FROM OUR FACTORY.

Flat Wooden Toys.	EACH.
Pigs	6d.
Brown, Blue and Green Birds ...	from 8d. to 1s. 6d.
Robins	8d.
Dogs	8d.
Poodles	1s. 0d.
Elephants	1s. 0d.
Kingfishers and other birds on perches...	1s. 6d. to 2s.
Boy Scouts	1s. 6d.
Girl Scouts	1s. 6d.
Soldiers	1s. 6d.
Fairies	1s. 6d.
Squirrels	1s. 6d.
Little Girls and Boys ...	9d. each, 1s. 3d. per pair.
Crawling Boy	1s. 3d. each, 2s. per pair.
Pugilists ...	2s. 9d. „ „
Countryman...	1s. 0s. „ „
White Duck and 4 Ducklings	1s. 6d. the set.
Coloured Duck & 4 Ducklings	2s. 0d. the set.
"British Baby" Dolls.	
Life Size ...	5s. 6d. each.
Smaller size ...	3s. 6d. „
"Jap" Baby Dolls.	
Life size ...	7s. 6d. each.
Smaller size ...	3s. 6d. „
English Wax-headed Dolls (Ready soon).	4s. 0d. each.
English China-headed Dolls (Ready soon).	5s. 0d. each.
Dolls' Furniture.	
Large (velvet)	2s. 6d.
„ (cloth)	2s. 0d.
Small (velvet)	1s. 6d.
„ (cloth)	1s. 0d.
Doll's Beds, 12½ in., oak stained	
Brass knobs	1s. 6d.
Complete with bedding	5s. 6d.
Chairs	2d.
Engines (wooden).	From 2d. each.
Wooden Horses.	From 2d. each.
Horse and Cart	1s.
Pontoon Bridge	3s.
Wheelbarrows.	From 1s. 6d. each.

GARMENTS.

Babies' Flannel Vests	1s.	0d.
„ Flannels	2s.	3d.
„ Flannel Petticoats ..	2s.	0d.
Girls' Overalls	1s.	9d.
„ Chemises (long-cloth) ..	1s.	9d.
„ Drawers „ ..	1s.	8d.
Children's Chemises „ ..	1s.	6d.
Ladies' „ „ ..	2s.	6d.
„ Drawers „ ..	2s.	6d.
„ Nightdresses „ ..	4s.	8d.
Men's Flannelette Shirts from	3s.	6d.
Ladies' Woolsey Skirts	5s.	6d.
Girls' Corduroy Skirts (3 years) ..	2s.	0d.
„ „ „ (4 years) ..	2s.	3d.
„ „ „ (5-6 years) ..	2s.	6d.
Jerseys' (Stockinette)	3s.	6d.
„ „	3s.	8d.
„ „	3s.	11d.
Blue Woolsey Frocks (children) ..	3s.	9d.
„ „ Coats, lined „ ..	6s.	4d.
Children's Grey Coats, imitation fur	10s.	0d.
„ White „ „ „	10s.	0d.

(These are both lined).

MAKING OUT OF THE TEA TAX.

Mr. Keir Hardie drew attention in the House last week to

THE PRICE OF TEA.

A circular issued by Messrs. Brooke, Bond, and Co. to their retail agents, pointing out the methods whereby the additional tax on tea might be made the means of increasing their profits by an additional ½d. in the lb. on tea sold; this was to be achieved mainly by withdrawing the 1s. 4d. tea and substituting a 1s. 10d. tea, whilst cheaper sorts of tea sold in penny packets to the very poor were withdrawn altogether.

Mr. Lloyd George said that it seemed as if "this firm were taking advantage of a duty imposed in a great national emergency. . . . to make increased profits out of the very poorest people in the community."

He might have added that it will fall most hardly on women who are the largest consumers, and almost the only buyers of tea amongst the working classes.

It is reported that at a large draper's establishment in a northern town the assistants are being charged 3d. a week extra for the tea which is supplied them in the afternoon "owing to increased taxation." Unless each assistant's tea is made in a separate pot, ¼lb. of tea per week per person is a liberal allowance, and the firm must be making a handsome profit out of this imposition.

CLUB FOR SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' WIVES.

To all who are feeling the strain of these terrible times, our hearts must go out most to the wives of our soldiers and sailors. They have the most difficult part of all to play; they have to suffer the constant anxiety—unable often for weeks at a time to hear news of the husband—and yet must carry on life in the same every day way, still doing the ordinary home tasks, on which, after all, so much of the national well-being depends.

The Poplar branch of the E.L.F.S., true to the principle that women should stand by one another in trouble, has decided to start a club for soldiers' and sailors' wives, and, of course, for any other women who want to come and join in the scheme at their headquarters at 20 Railway Street. It is intended to have a comfortable room open on certain days in the week, where they can come for a chat and read the papers, or for some kind of entertainment, not forgetting the cheering cup of tea. Before we can start, we must somehow get the following things: Two fenders and sets of fire-irons, some easy chairs and cushions, a table, a cupboard, a piano if possible, lots of illustrated papers. Please send promises of any of these things as soon as possible to Miss Hicks, at 20, Railway Street, Poplar. Money to buy them with, or to help pay the necessary working expenses, will be equally welcome. All subscriptions should be sent to the E.L.F.S., Hon. Financial Secretary, Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

The Poplar members of the E.L.F.S. will be the hostesses.

WOMEN AND THE FOOD PROBLEM.

The National Women's Council, the East London Federation of the Suffragettes, the Women's Industrial Council and other societies have formed a joint Food Supply Committee.

At the first meeting several important questions were dealt with. On a motion of Mrs. O'Sullivan, F.R.H.S., it was agreed that "in view of the devastation caused by the war in Belgium and northern France, and the consequent scarcity next year of green food in this country, we ask for grants to be made for the purpose of employing women and men on food production, poultry farms, vegetable and fruit growing, etc., and that, wherever possible, grants of land be made for that purpose." It was also agreed "that the small householders in London and throughout the country be encouraged to help the food supply by growing vegetables in their gardens and allotments, and that grants, land, and instruction should be given by the Government where required.

On the subject of milk depots Miss Sylvia Pankhurst moved: "That the Government make grants to infant welfare and maternity centres in respect of milk and food as well as in respect of doctoring and nursing, as in cases of destitution, milk and food are even more essential than medical care." This was passed unanimously. A further resolution dealt with meals for school children. It was agreed that all societies sending delegates should make a list of their members serving on Children's Care Committees to co-ordinate the work of all in the provision of meals.

The Joint Food Supply Committee will be composed of delegates from societies, but individuals who wish to be of good service can become associate members. All particulars may be obtained from Miss Margaretta Hicks, 21, Rochester Square, Camden Town, N.W.

Miss Fox has kindly arranged a most interesting entertainment for us on Saturday, December 12th. The programme will include songs and dances in costume by:—The Misses Boydell, Gwendolyn Cashman, Gwendoline Cook, Constance Fairbairn, Lettice Fox, Mary Fox, Joyce Gibson, Etheldreda Gore Brown, Margery Horne, Lilian Lenton (the famous elusive Suffragette), and Gladys Seymour. The concert will take place at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow. Admission will be free, and a collection will be taken.

GIVE THIS PAPER TO A FRIEND.

Printed by E. H. Williams (Kegd T.U.), 232 Devons Road, Bow, E., and Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes, at their offices, 321 Roman Road, Bow, E.